

Message Text

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15

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6239

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: LAO CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS

1. THE MARCH 15 EDITION OF THE PARTY NEWSPAPER "SIENG PASASON" GIVES A FRANK PICTURE OF THE PLACE OF LAFOR ORGANIZATIONS IN THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. IN ANSWER TO A READER'S QUESTION ABOUT HOW ONE JOINS THE CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS, "SIENG PASASON" REPLIES: " THE ORGANIZATION, CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS, IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT ALL DECISIONS MADE BY THE PARTY. IN ADDITION, IT MUST ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO COMPETE IN THE BUILDING OF THE FATHERLAND."

2. COMMENT: NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE CONCEPT OF INDEPENDENT UNIONISM IS FOREIGN TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LPRP. IN FACT, EVEN THE PARTY'S OWN UNION HAS NOT

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BEEN MENTIONED VERY MUCH SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE

LPDR. NEWS MEDIA HAVE CONCENTRATED ON OTHER MASS
ORGANIZATIONS, MOST NOTABLY THE PATRIOTIC WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION AND THE PATRIOTIC YOUTH ASSOCIATION.
HOWEVER, WITH MAY DAY FAST UPON US, PERHAPS THEY WILL
NOW DEVOTE SOME SPACE TO THE CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS
AS WELL.
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